Work Orders placed with Heavy Engineering by Railways

3614. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of work orders placed with Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi by the Railways since 1994 and the amount involved therein;

(b) the amount charged by private parties for the same job;

(c) whether the production by private parties is as per the specifications of the Railways;

(d) if so, the manner in which it is certified;

(e) if there is no certification in this regard the reasons for placing orders with private parties;

(f) the loss incurred by the Railways as a result thereof;

(g) the names of officers responsible for the same;

(h) whether the Government propose to order a CBI enquiry in this affair; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No work order has been placed with Heavy Engineering Corporation since 1994. Work orders are placed by Railways only on their own Workshops and not on any outside firms whether in private or public sector.

(b) to (i) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Conversion of Passenger Train into EMU Train

3615. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of converting Gaya-Dehri-on-Sone passenger train into EMU train and extending upon Garhwa under Eastern Railway, is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which Gaya-Garhwa Road EMU passenger service is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The matter is under examination.

[English]

Satellite Terminals

3616. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide telephone links to 100 villages using satellite terminals;

(b) if so, the pilot projects to be undertaken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to expand coverage of 10,000 villages in the country, provided it is successful;

(d) the number of INMARSAT terminals in India which are providing rural telephone;

(e) whether the INMARSAT Mini-M terminals are used for rural telephone project;

(f) if so, whether all the villages are likely to get phone links by using satellite terminals in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) and (b) The Government has envisaged a Pilot Project for linking 100 number of remote areas on franchise basis. This will be mainly used for rural and remote communication.

(c) to (g) Government is planning to provide Satellite based Public Telephone for villages which are not technically feasible on terrestrial media during Ninth Plan period. So far no INMARSAT Mini-M terminals have been deployed for Rural Telephone Project. However, there are about 100 numbers of INMARSAT-M terminals which are being used for communication purposes in various places by many organisation/individuals.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train

3617. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether not even a single train was added under the Eastern Railway last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether no proper facilities of trains, boarding and lodging existed for persons taking holy water from Sultanganj railway station (Bihar) during Shravan month even after repeated requests;

(d) if so, the response therefor;

(e) whether passengers from Jasidih railway station try to board the train by all means because there is no special train, appropriate coaches and no quota in trains from there; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?